

MINUTES OF THE
EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 20, 2021
(Approved February 17, 2021)

The Planning Commission held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. Present for the meeting were Walter Woessner, Kathryn Alexis, Larry Tietjen, Paul Lacon and Lance Parson was present by telephone. Also present were Marjorie Brown, Township Solicitor and Rick Tralies, Township Planner.

Mr. Woessner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the pledge was recited.

MINUTES

Mrs. Alexis made a motion to accept the minutes as presented for December 16, 2020. Mr. Tietjen seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 5-0-0 vote.

REORGANIZATION

Mr. Tietjen made a motion to nominate Mr. Woessner as Chair. Mr. Lacon seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 4-0-1 vote, Mr. Woessner abstaining. Mr. Woessner made a motion to nominate Mrs. Alexis as Vice-Chair. Mr. Tietjen seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 4-0-1 vote, Mrs. Alexis abstaining.

ESTABLISH DATES AND TIME FOR 2021 PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

The meeting dates and times for 2021 are the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm and are as follows:

January 20, 2021
February 17, 2021
March 17, 2021
April 21, 2021
May 19, 2021
June 16, 2021
July 21, 2021
August 18, 2021
September 15, 2021
October 20, 2021
November 17, 2021
December 15, 2021

CITIZEN COMMENTS

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

There was no subdivision and land development brought before the commission at this time.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS BROUGHT BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Consideration of Annual Report – Mr. Woessner stated he has some corrections to make to the annual report. Mr. Woessner went over a couple of items in the Annual Report that he had questions. Mr. Woessner discussed the possibility of the Township having a sidewalk plan. The members agreed the sidewalk plan should be reviewed. A discussion ensued. Mr. Woessner will review the Annual Report and the Planning Commission will review it again at the February meeting.

Review of Sign Ordinance Amendments – Ms. Brown stated the reason they started this process was to make the Ordinance content neutral so that it satisfies the First Amendment Standards based on recent Supreme Court decisions. She had Mr. Hosterman do a peer review of the Sign Ordinance Amendments and will be making further changes based on suggestions by Mr. Hosterman. Ms. Brown stated the Planning Commission members should let her know what questions or comments they have and she will make any changes requested. A lengthy discussion ensued. Ms. Brown will make revisions and present the Sign Ordinance Amendments for review at a future meeting.

Discussion re: Proposed Density Zoning Amendment – Update

Ms. Brown gave some background information regarding the inconsistency pertaining to the density. A discussion ensued. The Commission agreed to keep their recommendations on density as is and revise the lot sizes. Ms. Brown will make the revisions and will arrange for presenting the proposed ordinance amendment to the Board of Supervisors for authorization to draft the recommended changes.

Discussion re: Proposed Growing Greener Ordinance Amendments

Mr. Tralies reviewed the email he had sent to the members concerning Blossom Meadows I & II. Mr. Tralies presented what Blossom Meadows I & II would look like under Growing Greener to get an idea of the concept. A discussion ensued. The Planning Commission members agreed that Growing Greener would be beneficial to the Township.

Discussion re: Waivers

A discussion ensued on granting waivers for minor subdivisions. Mr. Woessner stated that residents are spending a lot of money in preparing waiver documents. Ms. Brown will develop waiver instructions with a template to be given to residents or developers who consider an application for a minor subdivision.

Northern Federation Update

Nothing to report at this time.

Historical Commission Update

Nothing to report at this time.

Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee

Nothing to report at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Alexis moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm. Mr. Tietjen seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 4-0-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kutsch
Secretary